

REMARKS

This Amendment After Final Rejection is submitted in response to the outstanding final Office Action, dated June 27, 2007. Claims 1 through 21 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. In this response, Applicants propose to amend claims 1, 20, and 21. No additional fee is due.

This amendment is submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §1.116 and should be entered. The Amendment places all of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 21, in a form that is believed allowable, and, in any event, in a better form for appeal. It is believed that examination of the pending claims as amended, which are consistent with the previous record herein, will not place any substantial burden on the Examiner. In any case, a Request for Continued Examination is being submitted herewith.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-16, 20 and 21 under U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reichmeyer et al. (United States Patent No. 6,286,038), and rejected claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Reichmeyer et al. in view of Presley (United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0105838).

Independent Claims 1, 20 and 21

Independent claims 1, 20, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reichmeyer et al. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Reichmeyer discloses generating one or more output rules using at least the accessed information, the accessed configuration elements, and the input rules, wherein an output rule corresponds to one or more input configuration elements (col. 6, lines 31-42); and generating at least one executable module adapted to access at least a given one of the input configuration elements and to trigger one or more of the output rules corresponding to the given input configuration element (col. 10, line 54, to col. 11, line 27). In the Response to arguments section of the final Office Action, the Examiner equates the "input rules" of the present claims with "the constraints on the device such as device type, being 'router or switch,' connectivity information, and relationship to other devices."

Applicants note that the present specification teaches that

5 input rules are also part of specifications for a device and
comprise, for example, a set of checks or constraints or both that should be
performed before or after a configuration element is accessed. The input rules are
generally derived from 'domain experts' (typically network specialists). An input
rule is usually represented as a set of executable statements.
(Page 2, lines 24-28.)

The present specification teaches that

10 output rules are determined by using the accessed configuration
elements, the input rules, and the way the input rule manipulates its accessed
configuration elements. Regarding the latter, output rules may be determined to
deal with modifications to configuration elements, as explained in more detail
below. In an illustrative embodiment, each output rule is generally derived from
15 exactly one input rule and corresponds to the same input configuration element
associated with that input rule. Output rules may be derived from multiple input
rules, if desired.
(Page 3, lines 7-14.)

Finally, the present disclosure teaches that

20 an executable module is generated that is adapted to access at least
a given one of the input configuration elements and to trigger one or more of the
output rules corresponding to the given input configuration element.
(Page 3, lines 15-17.)

Applicants also note that Reichmeyer is directed to generating a configuration file
(see, Abstract). Applicants, however, could find *no* disclosure of **"input rules," "output rules,"**
25 **and "executable modules,"** as defined in the context of the present disclosure, in Reichmeyer.
In addition, Reichmeyer does *not* disclose or suggest generating an **executable module** *adapted*
to access at least a given input configuration element and to trigger one or more of the output
rules corresponding to the given input configuration element.

Furthermore, Applicants note that the Examiner equates the "input rules" of the
30 present claims with "the constraints on the device such as device type, being 'router or switch,'
connectivity information, and relationship to other devices." Independent claims 1, 20, and 21
have been amended, however, to require *wherein said one or more input rules comprise one or*
more executable statements. Support for this amendment can be found on page 2, lines 27-28,

of the originally filed disclosure.

Thus, Reichmeyer et al. do not disclose or suggest generating one or more output rules using at least the accessed information, the accessed configuration elements, and the input rules, wherein an output rule corresponds to one or more input configuration elements and
5 wherein said one or more input rules comprise one or more executable statements; and generating at least one executable module adapted to access at least a given one of the input configuration elements and to trigger one or more of the output rules corresponding to the given input configuration element, as required by independent claims 1, 20, and 21, as amended

Additional Cited References

10 Presley was also cited by the Examiner for its disclosure of performing a circularity check. Applicants note that Presley is directed to a system and method for actively managing an enterprise of configurable components (see, Abstract). Presley does *not*, however, address the issue of generating one or more output rules using at least the accessed information, the accessed configuration elements, and the input rules, wherein an output rule corresponds to
15 one or more input configuration elements and wherein said one or more input rules comprise one or more executable statements.

Thus, Presley does not disclose or suggest generating one or more output rules using at least the accessed information, the accessed configuration elements, and the input rules, wherein an output rule corresponds to one or more input configuration elements and wherein said
20 one or more input rules comprise one or more executable statements; and generating at least one executable module adapted to access at least a given one of the input configuration elements and to trigger one or more of the output rules corresponding to the given input configuration element, as required by independent claims 1, 20, and 21, as amended.

Dependent Claims 2-19

25 Dependent claims 2-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Reichmeyer et al., and claims 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Reichmeyer et al. in view of Presley.

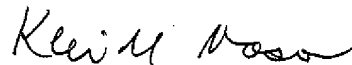
Claims 2-19 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore patentably distinguished over Reichmeyer et al and Presley, alone or in combination, because of their dependency from amended independent claim 1 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

5 If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

10

Respectfully submitted,



15

Date: October 29, 2007

Kevin M. Mason
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 36,597
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560

20